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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **SHIMOSATO, Yoshikazu, et al.**

Group Art Unit: 1742

Serial No.: 10/708,737

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: March 22, 2004

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 2736

For: **CONTINUOUS VACUUM CARBURIZING FURNACE**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 1, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

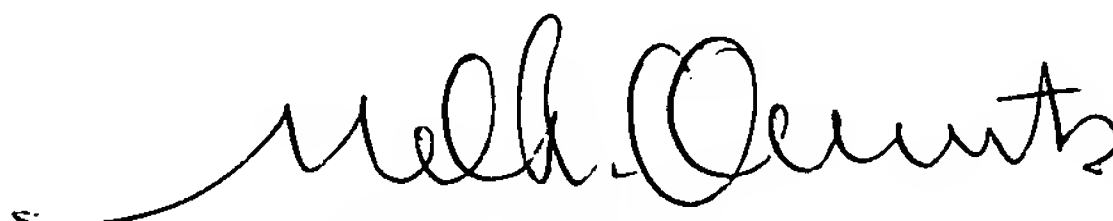
The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.



The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PTO-1449
References (4)
European Search Report dated 09/10/04.

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	Applicant(s): SHIMOSATO, Yoshikazu, et al.	
	Filing Date: March 22, 2004	Group Art Unit: 1742

DEC 01 2004

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA						
_____	AB						
_____	AC						
_____	AD						
_____	AE						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____	AF	2003-113414	04/18/03	Japan	Abstract
_____	AG	EP 0 147 845	07/10/85	European	Yes
_____	AH	2002-146512	05/22/02	Japan	Abstract
_____	AI				
_____	AJ				

OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AK	ALTENA H.: "Niederdruck-Aufkohlung mit Hochdruck-Gasabschreckung Verfahrenstechnik und Ergebnisse" HAERTEREI TECHNISCHE MITTEILUNGEN, CARL HANS VERLAG, vol. 53, no. 2, 1 March 1998 (1998-03-01), pages 93-101, XP-000755093 MUNCHEN, DE *page 94 - page 99*.
_____	AL	European Search Report dated 09/10/04.
Examiner		Date Considered